IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image photographing apparatus for photographing a still image, comprising:

a scanning imaging device for generating image signals; and

control means for using the image signals generated by said imaging device to adjust the still image before photographing, said control means defining a detection area which is both vertically and horizontally limited within ~~on~~ said imaging device and reading only the image signals within the detection area out of said imaging device, the read image signals being used to adjust the still image before photographing.

2. (Original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means also controls said imaging device when the still image is being photographed.

3. (Original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means determines a start position of the detection area and the amount of image signals to be read out within the detection area, and, accordingly, only the image signals within the detection area are read out of said imaging device.

4. (Original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said control means allows a high-speed scan in a region before the start position of the detection area, allows a predetermined-speed scan in the detection area, and allows only the determined amount of image signals to be read out.

5. (Original) An image photographing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, based on the read image signals, at least one of automatic focus control, automatic photographic sensitivity control, and automatic white balance control is performed.

6. (Currently Amended) An image photographing method for photographing a still image by a scanning imaging device for generating image signals, comprising the steps of:

when the image signals generated by the imaging device are used to adjust the still image before photographing:

defining, by control means, a detection area which is both vertically and horizontally limited within ~~on~~ the imaging device; and

reading, by the control means, only the image signals within the detection area out of the imaging device; and

adjusting, by using the read image signals, the still image before photographing.

7. (Original) An image photographing method according to Claim 6, wherein the control means also controls the imaging device when the still image is being photographed.

8. (Original) An image photographing method according to Claim 6, wherein the reading step includes the step of allowing the control means to determine a start position of the detection area and the amount of image signals to be read out within the detection area, so that only the image signals within the detection area are read out of the imaging device accordingly.

9. (Original) An image photographing method according to Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

allowing the control means to perform a high-speed scan in a region before the start position of the detection area, to perform a predetermined-speed scan in the detection area, and to read out only the determined amount of image signals.

10. (Original) An image photographing method according to Claim 6, wherein, based on the read image signals, at least one of automatic focus control, automatic photographic sensitivity control, and automatic white balance control is performed.